



PACTOR NEWS

A Newsletter dedicated to HF communications since 1994

ISSUE #18 - MAY 1998

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PERSPECTIVE

The Editors Opinion

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Spring is here, at least in the northern hemisphere. From the observations that I have been able to make propagation is on the upswing. That ought to be good news for hams, so why are so many CQ's going unanswered?

Perhaps warm weather prompts more outdoor activities. Maybe we are too busy to spend any time on the radio. Perhaps there's a good game on the television or maybe surfing the internet is the rage.

Whatever the excuse, the result is a net loss to Amateur Radio worldwide. The attitude that ham radio is second best also seems to invade the very backbone of the Dayton Hamvention.

Being a Dayton area resident, I have been involved with Hamvention for more years than I can remember. It will be a year of many changes. One of the most obvious will be a change in the traffic pattern. Left turns will be prohibited and different entrances will be used for different purposes.

Exhibitors and vendors will enter by Gate 1, which is only accessible from Wolf Road. Handicapped (ADA) and flea market tickets must enter by Gate 4 which is ONLY ACCESSABLE from WESTBOUND Shiloh Springs Road. Eastbound Shiloh Springs Road will be CLOSED. The way only to enter Gate 4 will be to get on Shiloh Springs Road, westbound at State Route 48, Main Street.

There will still be shuttle busses from the free parking areas, but getting to

paid parking areas at Hara along Wolf Road (as has been the custom for many years) will be very hard.

The good news is that plenty of signs will be placed at prominent locations. But, the local county jurisdiction (which is footing the bill for signs) will **NOT** point the way to any paid parking lots. So, if you are going to be looking for private paid parking near the arena, it may be difficult.

Meanwhile, there is also a difference in the local atmosphere. It may be that El-Nino will get the blame, but the crowd predictions are well below those of years past. It remains to be seen if the actual attendance figures will agree with the seers.

If you are going to be in Dayton there are several functions that you do not want to miss. Many out-of-town digital operators will again gather at the Quality Inn. I have been told that major repairs have been done to many of the rooms, including new air conditioners, etc. The Contesters DX'ers Dinner will be held there on Friday night and the traditional RTTY dinner will again be on Saturday evening.

Certainly the Dayton Hamvention will have plenty of activities and you will not be bored. Reportedly the size of the flea market has once again been expanded. For those who have never been to Dayton, the flea market is a sight that you will not soon forget.

PACTOR NEWS will be sponsoring the PACTOR Forum which will be held at Hara Arena on Saturday, May 16th in the afternoon. Please note that some of the Forum Rooms have been changed from where they were in previous years. Your best bet is to get a Hamvention program at the door and plan your activities in advance. Another hint is to leave plenty of time to get from one location to another.

(Continued on the next page)

NEWS BRIEFS

The Dayton HamVention will be May 15, 16, and 17th, 1998 at Hara Arena. This may be a watershed year as many hams ask whether Dayton will survive. The Digital group at the refurbished Quality Inn. Hopefully the hotel will be better than in years past.

Bill Henry has revived the old RTTY Digital Journal as "New RTTY Journal".

This issue provides details on the 1998 Dayton HamVention. If you are going to Dayton, be sure to include the PACTOR Forum on your list of activities for Saturday about 2:00PM, Dayton time. See page 5.

There will be a Digital Forum right after the PACTOR Forum, in the same room. The program is reported to be a history of RTTY by Bill Henry. That sounds very interesting. The moderator will be Dale Sinner, W6IWO.

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PACTOR NEWS

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PERSPECTIVE

(Continued from Page 1)

The Dayton weather has been known to be totally unpredictable. A few years ago the HamVention was moved from the last week-end in April to the second week-end in May. The announced purpose was to try to get better weather. The April date had been plagued with rain, snow, sleet, and excessive heat. It was hoped the later date would have more moderate weather.

To some extent the change of date has helped in that regard. However, the attendance has been declining in recent years. Whether the decline is due to the change of date or other factors is unknown.

Meanwhile the ritual of Dayton continues. Extended contracts have been signed with Hara Arena and the Dayton HamVention shows all signs of being viable well into the future.

See you at Dayton

73 de Phil - N8PS

UNIVERSAL LICENSING SYSTEM TO APPLY TO ALL US AMATEURS

Soon all radio licensees in the United States will be required to provide a Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) as part of any license application. For Ham operators who are also US citizens this would most likely be a Social Security Number. Nothing has been mentioned about foreign nationals who hold FCC Ham licenses.

The FCC has already begun registering TIN information from other, mostly commercial, licensees. Registration can be either by mail or over the Internet. Plans are now underway to include US Hams as well. Two reasons are given for this process. First, it gives the FCC the ability to collect fines and assessments via the US Treasury. In addition it would also identify those not permitted receive certain Federal benefits for a variety of reasons.

Consolidation of FCC forms is another result of this process. In future years paper applications may become obsolete. Certainly more on this subject is sure to follow in the near future, so watch for additional information.

**DIGITAL
HAM
RADIO**

**USE IT OR
LOSE IT**

ASK THE PROFESSOR

Q: Do you know of any test data which indicates how much better (or worse) Pactor II is in receiving Pactor I signals than Pactor I is in receiving the same signals? I don't recall seeing such a comparison. Also, is there any data indicating whether a Pactor I station can receive Pactor II signals better than Pactor I signals? My experience leads me to believe that Pactor II signals come in better at my Pactor I setup than Pactor I signals do, but I have no hard data. Here at San Diego Yacht Club we are presently using Pactor I at the club station (W6IM) for communication with folks cruising Sea of Cortez and Pacific waters. Most of these have only Pactor I aboard, and we're wondering if investing in Pactor II at the club station would improve the range and reliability of communication with our Pactor I cruising friends. 'Would appreciate your comments.

A: There is no easy answer to your question. Since PACTOR I is FSK and PACTOR II is PSK, it much like the AM -vs- SSB controversy. While SSB has been shown to be a much more effective mode than AM, it has the disadvantages of being more complex and expensive.

PACTOR II stations can operate in both PACTOR I and PACTOR II. (a distinct advantage over other singular modes) A PACTOR II controller is more complex (and more expensive) than a PACTOR I device. If it is a function of 'muscle' then a PACTOR II controller (PTC-II) wins hands down.

A PACTOR I station hearing PACTOR II can not decode it. (Much as an AM station hearing SSB) However, a PTC-II has a lot more horsepower. In my opinion a PTC-II will always outperform any PACTOR I device.

My suggestion is for you to find a ham nearby with a PACTOR II unit and see for yourself. The good news is that the cost of PACTOR II units is probably going to decline.

Q: How much time do you spend writing your column?

A: As little as possible... actually I take about an hour to select the questions and write the answers.

Seeking answers? Send your questions to the Professor. He replies only in this column

RTTY DINNER SATURDAY NIGHT BANQUET

Place:

Quality Inn (formerly Raddison N)
2401 Needmore Road
Dayton, Ohio

Date: Saturday, May 16, 1998

Time: Cash Bar at 6:00pm with dinner promptly at 7:00pm.

The cost of tickets is \$25.00 each. Cash, check, or money order is acceptable. All tickets will be held at the door. Your cancelled check will be your receipt.

Please mail to:

Fred Groce, K0FG
21844 Vinyard Hills
Council Bluffs, IA 51503-4234
Tel: (712) 322-0788

Additional menu details are available. See the advertisement for the RTTY Dinner on page 9 of this issue.

Details of the program are not yet available, so look for more information in the next issue.

These tickets are for the SATURDAY night RTTY DINNER and NOT for the Friday night Contesters.DXers dinner, which is being handled by Ron Stailey, K5DJ.

This event has no sponsor and no affiliation. All Digital operators, users, manufacturers, etc., are invited!

PLEASE
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NEWS**

DIGITAL CONTESTERS/ DX DINNER FRIDAY NIGHT

Place:

Quality Inn (formerly Raddison N)
2401 Needmore Road
Dayton, Ohio

Date: Friday, May 15, 1998

Time: No host Bar at 6:00pm with dinner promptly at 6:30pm.

The cost of tickets this year is the same as last year, \$20.00 each. Cash, check, or money order is acceptable. Tickets will be held at the door this year.

Please send to:

Ron Stailey, K5DJ
504 Dove Haven Drive
Round Rock, TX 78446-5926
Email: k5dj@easy.com
Phone: (512) 255-5000

These tickets are for FRIDAY night Contesters.DXers dinner and NOT for the Saturday night Banquet, which is being handled by Fred Groce, K0FG.

This event has no sponsor and no affiliation. All Digital operators, users, manufacturers, etc., are invited!

de Ron - K5DJ

**DIGITAL
HAM
RADIO**
**USE IT OR
LOSE IT**

DAYTON ROOMS

We will be staying this year at the Quality Inn. The hotel has made improvements since we were there last. Each room has individual A/C and heating units. Other amenities will be in place by the time we arrive.

Free bus transportation to and from the arena will be provided by the hotel.

This year the rooms are \$99.00 per night. A deposit of \$80.00 (toward the \$99.00) must be paid up front to insure your reservation, plus a \$2.00 handling fee imposed by me. I hope the \$2.00 fee will cover all the phone calls, etc., which will be needed.

A room confirmation will be sent to you by me shortly before the Hamvention. Your deposit will be refunded if the room is cancelled 72 hours before time of arrival.

Please provide the following:

1. Your Name:
2. Address:
3. City, State, and Zip:
4. Daytime phone/FAX (required):
5. How many nights:

(Thursday-Friday-Saturday-Sunday)

6. Smoking or Non-smoking:
7. Other needs: (please specify)

All rooms have two beds. If you prefer a king size bed or need an extra bed, please advise.

Make your check for \$82.00 payable to Dale Sinner and mail to:

Dale Sinner, W6IWO
1904 Carolton Lane
Fallbrook, CA 92028-4614
Phone/FAX: (760) 723-3838
Email: dsinner@tfb.com

Your cancelled check will be your temporary receipt. No credit cards accepted, but you can charge your final bill at the hotel to a credit card.

See you at Dayton, May 15, 16, & 17.

73 de Dale
W6IWO

THE CONTEST CORNER

Ron Stailey, K5DJ
504 Dove Haven Drive
Round Rock, TX 78446-5926

Hello Contesters/DXers: Here it is time for the Dayton Convention again, my how time flies when your having fun. :-). As you know from the last issue we will have the Annual Contesters/DXers Dinner on Friday night at the Quality Inn in the Mayfair room. A (pay as you go) bar will be setup for everyone starting at 6:00pm and dinner will be served at 6:30pm sharp..

This years dinner menu will be:

Chicken Marsala Sauteed Breast of Chicken with Mushrooms and Marsala Wine Sauce, with Baked Potato Garden Salad, Vegetable, Starch, Warm Bread and Beverage..

Price is \$20.00 per dinner, includes dinner and after dinner program plus plaque presentations for CQ/RJWW'97 and WW RTTY WPX'98 contests..

Send Friday night Dinner reservation to: Ron Stailey, K5DJ 504 Dove Haven Dr. Round Rock, TX 78664-5926

After dinner the bar will again be at your service while the speakers setting up there slide show, you can have one last drink after and during the evening programs.

After dinner program speakers will be Ray Orgtiesen, WF1B. He will talk and have a slide show on his outstanding contest efforts from Aruba using call P40TT in CQ/RJWW RTTY DX Contest last September. Ray not only set a new world record in low power category he also topped the high power category setting an all time high score in Single/Ops Category. This is one record I'm sure will hold for a while in low power category..

One last minute announcement Buddy Ashley, WB4M will talk and have a slide show from the KH5 Palmyra operation a while back.. This also should be a very interesting for both Contesters and DXers..

Plaques will be presented to winners

for: 1997 CQ/RJWW RTTY DX Contest, and 1998 World-Wide RTTY WPX Contest. Afterwards again this year we will have door prizes, at present Hal Communications donated two P38 TNC's one for the Friday night dinner and one for the Saturday night dinner as well. You have two chances to win a P38 if your at both dinners.. WriteLog Contest Software for Windows (New Ver-9) has also been donated. RTTY by WF1B will have his newest version as well.. Our editor, Phil Sussman; N8PS, is donating two subscriptions to PACTOR NEWS..

This year dinner tickets will be given at the door as you come in the Mayfair Room.. About 1/4 of all dinner tickets were left at home last year.. Conformation of all money received will be acknowledged if accompanied with an e-mail address..

We hope to see many of you at this years Contesters /DXers dinner.. I still have tickets for your reservations at the time of this writing..

Since this is the May/June issue, June brings Field Day.. F.D. is one time of year all operators get together and do contest activities in the field. Starting this year digital mode has been put into the ranks of a real competing mode. Starting this year for the first time contacts can be made SSB, CW and RTTY or digital modes on all bands. Naturally RTTY was made for this type of operation. I personally am looking forward to F.D. for the first time in a long long time.. This year it's not going to be just a operating picnic for me. I plan to make an all out effort in F.D. in RTTY mode. I hope you will do the same, we are a three point contact just like CW mode and we should take advantage of it, are it could be taken away just as easy as we got it.. Digital mode has been offered a chance to participate in as a full partner for the first time since F.D. began..

There are some that have said they didn't think they would take there RTTY gear to the field on field day. If your one that feels this way the Home Power Class is "D" category.. Please get on the air during Field Day.. Each year sever good ops always participates in F.D. under commercial power, if for no other reason than to see just how big of a score they can have.. If nothing else

do THAT. At least put RTTY category on the air all weekend long. FINALLY the Digital ops can have a blast in Field Day like the other modes.. No other contesting mode is growing like RTTY is at present, if all or a large percentage of us get on and make a serious effort, no telling where the digital modes can go from here. So please join in the action and help make the digital modes as popular as possible..

The new media has always been good about letting the public know what F.D. is and what we are doing if you notify them and ask them to let the public know what Field Day is.. At our F.D. sites there are always specters that come to see what the new media was talking about on tv. With virtually every one having a computer these days it is very possible we could encourage many new ham to join the ranks of amateur radio and become good digital operators, and our favorite mode of operation will grow. It our duty as amateurs if nothing else.

Upcoming Contests for May and June

First full weekend in May Sponsored by Associazione Radioamatori Italiani (ARI) May 1st & 2nd, 1998

CONTEST PERIOD: Starts at 2000 UTC Saturday, ends at 2000 UTC Sunday (24 hours) No off periods required.

MODES: CW, SSB, and RTTY.

BANDS: 160,80,40,20,15,10M. (No RTTY on 160)

CATEGORIES: a) Single Op-cw d) Single Op Mixed b) Single Op-ssb e) Multi-Op Single Tx, Mixed c) Single Op-RTTY f) SWL - Single Op - Mixed

NOTE: RTTY Contesters with CW and/or SSB have a significant advantage by operating "Mixed" Category. (3 QSOs per band, but QSOs must be more than 10 minutes apart.) See "Penalties and Disqualifications."

EXCHANGE: Italian stations send: RST + 2 letters to identify province. All others send: RST + serial number, starting with 001.

MULTIPLIERS: Each Italian province (103) and each DXCC country (except I & ISO). Each multiplier counts only once per band, regardless of mode. This means there are band mults but no mode mults.

The 103 Italian provinces (by call area) are: I1: AL, AT, BI, CN, GE, IM, NO, SP, SV, TO, VB, VC. IX1: AO

12: BG, BS, CO, CR, LC, LO, MI, MN, PV, SO, VA.

13: BL, PD, RO, TV, VE, VR, VI.

IN3: BZ, TN. IV3: GO, PN, TS, UD.

14: BO, FE, FO, MO, PR, PC, RA, RE, RN.

15: AR, FI, GR, LI, LU, MS, PI, PO, PT, SI.

16: AN, AP, AQ, CH, MC, PS, PE, TE.

17: BA, BR, FG, LE, MT, TA.

18: AV, BN, CB, CE, CS, CZ, IS, KR, NA, PZ, RC, SA, VV.

10: FR, LT, PG, RI, ROMA (or RM), TR, VT.

IT9: CL, CT, EN, ME, PA, RG, SR, TP, AG.

ISO: CA, NU, SS, OR.

QSO/POINTS: QSO/HRD with own country = zero points but counts for multipliers. QSO/HRD with own continent = 1 point. QSO/HRD with other continent = 3 points. QSO/HRD with any Italian (I & ISO) station = 10 points. NOTE: Same station may be QSO'd on same band once with any mode (ssb/cw/RTTY) but only the first QSO would count as a possible new multiplier.

FINAL SCORE: Total QSO points x total mults. SWLs use same rules as QSO ops.

LOGS and SUMMARY SHEETS: Use separate logsheets for each band. Logs must show: BAND, DATE and TIME in UTC, CALLSIGN, MESSAGE (sent and received), country or province prefix, and QSO points claimed. Summary sheet must show: call-sign, name and address, class of entry, callsigns of other operators, all scoring details, and a signed declaration of abiding by all the rules.

LOG DEADLINE: Logs must be postmarked within 30 days of contest. Mail to:

ARI Contest Manager Paolo Cortese, I2UIY
P.O. Box 14 I-27043 BRONI (PV) ITALY

PENALTIES AND DISQUALIFICATIONS:

Disqualification may apply for: 1. Excessive number of unmarked duplicates (more than 2%). 2. Violation of the "10 Minutes Rule" (either for band or mode). 3. Excessive declared score (more than 5%). 4. Log without summary sheet. Penalties may apply for: 5. Each duplicate contact removed by the Contest Committee costs 3 QSOs. 6. Each multiplier counted twice or more on same band costs 2 multipliers. 7. Each non-existing or unverifiable station logged costs 5 QSOs. 8. Instead of disqualification of a log, the Committee may decide to penalize by erasing a percentage of its score.

AWARDS: A plaque with a certificate will be awarded to top scoring station in each class. Special plaques can be awarded by the Contest Committee if country/continental/call-area participation will justify the decision. A certificate will be awarded to No. 2,3,4, and 5 top scoring stations in each class as well as to the top scoring stations in each country in each class.

SPECIAL AWARD: Two very attractive, large size plaques will be awarded by Santa Barbara Contesters to keep alive the memory of I3ANE, Pietro Fiorito. The plaques will be assigned to: Best score achieved by Operator under 21 years of age. Best score achieved by SWL under 18 years of age. In order to qualify for these awards, entrants must clearly state their age and birth date on the summary sheet.

LOGS ON DISKETTES: Logs on diskettes are very welcome and accepted in substitution of paper logs. Accepted formats are: N6TR, K1EA, ASCII, as well as the MS/DOS software distributed FREE of cost from the Contest Committee. A printed summary sheet must always be enclosed.

The free software can be used in either real-time or after the contest. It calculates points, multipliers and score. You have to type in the callsign and received report. It prints logs, summary sheet and dupe sheets as well as QSL labels. It has PacketCluster capability. An updated version is now available, revised and modified. The software can be received by sending to the Contest Manager \$5 us dollars or 10 IRCs to cover diskette and postage expenses.

COMMENTS: This contest has been around for a while on cw and ssb. RTTY was added in 1994. It occurs just 1 week before the popular VOLTA RTTY DX Contest, and has 103 additional Italian prefixes to keep track of on each band. It's a 24 hour, no-rest-periods contest with plenty of things to keep you busy. If you decide to go all mixed up, don't forget that RTTY software won't work on cw or ssb, and vice versa. 40M could be loaded with QRM, as SSB and CW contesters are also sharing the frequencies. Separate logsheets are required for each band.

-+- VOLTA RTTY WW Contest -+-

Sponsored by SSB and RTTY Club of COMO, and A.R.I. (Associazione Radioamatore Italiani) honoring Italian discoverer of electricity, ALESSANDRO VOLTA. Second full weekend in May (Ref:A.R.I., I2DMI) May 9th 10th, 1998

CONTEST PERIOD: 1200Z Saturday 10th to 1200Z Sunday 11th. (no rest periods required)

BANDS: 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10M.

CLASSES: A1 - Single op, all bands A2 - Single op, single band B - Multi-op, single transmitter C - SWL.

EXCHANGE: Send: RST + QSO nr. + CQ Zone nr.

>From 1997 onwards, JA1-0 and ZL1-4 become additional multipliers

MULTIPLIERS: DXCC Country List + each call area in VK,VE,JA, ZL1-4 and USA. DO NOT COUNT VK,VE,JA,ZL1-4 or USA as separate country.(USA stations with callsign from one district but are now living in a different district should give proper identification, such as: K6WZ/0.) The same multiplier counts again on a new band. An additional multiplier is given for each INTERCONTINENTAL COUNTRY worked on at least four bands. Contacts between stations within the same country will not be valid, such as: A W2 station can work W1, W3, W4, etc. but not W2. Contacts made OUTSIDE one's own continent on 80 or 10M count double

QSO POINTS. A contact with a station that would count as a multiplier will be valid only if that station appears in at least 4 other logs, or a contest log is received from that station.

FINAL SCORE = total QSO points x total mults (band mults + each INTERNATIONAL COUNTRY worked on 4 bands) x total number of QSOs. (Pts x Mults x Qsos).

Use Exchange Points Table, revised October 1996 to determine points scored for each QSO.

AWARDS: A SPECIAL trophy will be awarded to the top stations in each class. In addition, a certificate with special sticker to all entrants.

LOGS: Use separate logsheets for each band. Logs must show: BAND, DATE and TIME (UTC), CALLSIGN and MESSAGE Sent and Received, POINTS and NEW MULTIPLIER

PREFIX. Summary sheet must show full scoring, and list of multipliers worked. Multi operator logs must list names and callsigns of all operators. (Comments would be very much appreciated.)

Logs must be received by July 31st 1997, to qualify. Send logs to:

Francesco Di Michele, I2DMI P.O. Box 55
22063 Cantù ITALY

--+- Field Day --+-

Field Day, date and time is: June 27th 1800z - 28th 2100z, 1998 See rules in QST May issue. (I don't have F.D. rules as this is the first year for real Digital competition. So make some RTTY contacts this year. :-)

-----ANARTS W W RTTY Contest -----

SPONSOR: Australian National Amateur Radio Teleprinter Society.

DATE: 2nd full weekend of June 13-14, 1998.

TIME: Saturday 00.00z - Sunday 24.00z.

Maximum operating time allowed: 30 hours for Single op entries and SWLs. No restric-

tions on duration of rest periods. Multi-op stations may operate the entire contest period. Summary of operating times must be submitted with log.

MODE: All digital modes permitted; RTTY, AMTOR, FEC, and Packet.

BANDS: 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10M.

CLASSES: (A) Single operator (B) Multi operator, single transmitter (C) SWL.

EXCHANGE: RST + CQ Zone + Time (UTC).

QSO POINTS: Use "Revised 1994 Exchange Points Table" to determine QSO points. Any Exchange points Table before 1994, should not be used.

MULTIPLIERS: Each ARRL DXCC Country, and each call district of VK (1-8), JA, VE, and W count as separate countries on each band (band multipliers). QSO's with one's own country is not valid for multiplier count. (Contacts with one's own country does count for QSO point but does NOT COUNT AS A MULTIPLIER). Each continent QSO counts as a multiplier (maximum of six).

FINAL SCORE: Total QSO points x total multipliers x number of continents worked (max. 6). After the above calculations, World stations add 100 points for each VK QSO on 20M, 200 points for each VK QSO on 15M, 300 points for each QSO on 10M, 400 points for each VK QSO on 40M, and 500 points for each VK QSO on 80M.

AWARDS: Plaques will be awarded for first place in each class. Certificates will be issued for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place on world basis, and also on a country basis. The judge's decision will be final and no correspondence will be entered into. Logs become the property of ANARTS.

LOGS: Separate logsheets are required for each band. Logs must show: BAND, DATE and TIME (UTC), CALLSIGN, MESSAGE Sent and Received, NEW MULTIPLIERS, and QSO POINTS. Summary sheet must show: Your callsign, name and address of operator, bands used, points claimed for each band, number of VK stations QSOed, total points claimed, and signature/s. Multi-op station logs must contain the signatures and callsigns of each operator. A general certification regarding compliance with rules is also required.

Logs must be received by September 1st, and sent to:

Contest Manager, VK2BQS Jim Swan
P.O.Box 93 Toongabbie NSW 2146 AUSTRALIA

COMMENTS: For single op stations, this is a 30 hour contest (out of the 48 hours). Multi-op stations may operate the full 48

hours. QSO points are determined by the Exchange Points Table. This table is based on the 40 CQ Zones and is arranged so that the further away the QSO is from your Zone, the higher the points scored. (PLEASE NOTE: CQ Zones DO NOT count as multipliers.) Each VK, JA, VE, and W call areas count as separate countries on each band. This contest counts band multipliers, making the low bands more active, and giving more bonus QSO points, too. Don't forget to work the continents for additional multipliers. Try to keep track of your operating time, as single ops are only allowed a maximum of 30 hours out of the 48 hour period. Your Summary Sheet requires that you list your TIME ON/OFF records.

Until next time 73,

Remember that big antennas high in the sky are always better than small antennas lying on the ground. -:-)

de Ron K5DJ

PACTOR NEWS

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<http://www.pactor.com>

**DIGITAL
HAM
RADIO**

**USE IT OR
LOSE IT**

PACTOR FORUM AT DAYTON

The 4th annual PACTOR Forum will be held at the 1998 Dayton HamVention on Saturday, May 16, 1998.

Our primary speaker will be Peter Casier, ON6TT/5X4T who will be speaking about digital radio for humanitarian use. Joining Peter will be another familiar face, Mats Persson, SM7PKK.

There will be questions and answers about other HF digital topics. Peter's article "How to Break a RTTY pile-up" previously appeared in PACTOR NEWS and will probably also be a topic of conversation.


Our forum will be held at 2:00pm local Dayton time, (1800z) in Form Room #3 at the main Hara Arena.

Please note that some of the Forum room numbers have been changed since last year. So be sure to check the 1998 HamVention program for the proper times and locations.

If you are going to be in Dayton for the HamVention, please plan to attend this very interesting session.

Thanks,

73 de Phil - N8PS



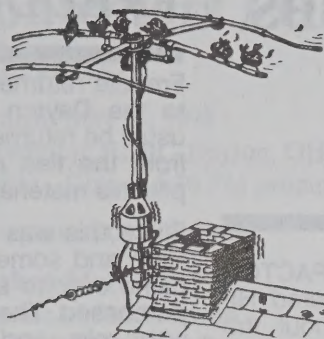
Win 95 and 3.1 compatible
LOGic 4
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ELUSIVE QSLs

Whenever an HFdigital contact has been made, there is a good probability that one station or the other will send a QSL card. For hams who operate DX or seek a particular award, cards become more common.

Those sending a QSL card often forget that a reply is not mandatory. In fact some stations will not answer a QSL card. The reasons are many and varied, but result in the same.

So, how do you get a card out of that rare station? For the most part most DX stations expect to receive QSL cards. If you are especially interested in a QSL card from a particular station, it is best to ask that station about the best way to get a card.

Some stations use a QSL bureau exclusively while others prefer to always QSL direct. Many stations have QSL managers do the work.

The first thing to remember is that you are more likely to get a card if you employ three simple steps:

- Use self addressed envelope
- Enclose postage \$'s or IRCs
- Make your request clear

When using a QSL manager be sure to enclose enough funds or IRCs to cover the postage. Remember some managers are only out for dollars and don't care about speed of service.

BORO OR NO

One of the most common ways to send a QSL is to QSL via BORO. For a successful exchange both parties must be bureau members. If you use a QSL bureau don't expect fast service. It can take several years for a card to be returned, if at all.

If you want a prompt response it is best to QSL direct or via a known good QSL manager. When sending a QSL to another station is a good idea to remember than you might want his card more than he needs or desires you card.

Courtesy is the watchword for a better than average return rate. Some operators routinely send other postal cards or other printed information to the other station in an attempt to get a faster return.

One question has been whether or not to send cash funds with a QSL. In some countries that is not legal. In other instances it merely results in postal mail theft, especially in some rare DX countries. That's why it is best to ask the other station of his QSL practice.

Sending funds via a BURO is very high risk. That's why some DX stations must use QSL managers in other countries.

One thing to consider when using a QSL bureau is that the return rate is less than if QSLing direct.

WHY NO QSL

One reality of sending a QSL card is that you may never get a response. There can be a wide variety of reasons why you will never get a card from some operators.

- Your card was not received.
- The operator can not afford a card or the postage.
- The op may be disabled.
- The op may not be a member of a QSL buro.
- The op may hate QSL cards.

Of course there are other possibilities such as government regulations, or whether the operator has moved or died since the QSO.

Some operators do not attach any significant importance to QSL cards. They may sit for months before they are answered, if they are even answered at all.

But don't give up. Persistence pays. It has been shown that the percentage of replies rises rapidly with the number of repeat requests. This would tend to indicate an old maxim:

"The squeaky wheel gets the oil."

Remember that it never hurts to make another QSO, even with the same individual. It just might help the QSL process along. After all, you are going to also be receiving QSLs.

PACTOR-2

UPDATE

Hans-Peter Helfert, DL6MAA
S.C.S. - Rontgenstr. 36
63454 Hanau, GERMANY
Email: dl1zam@scs-ptc.com

Dear PACTOR friends,

Here is the latest information about PACTOR-2 from SCS.

NEW MANUAL ONLINE

I just want to inform you that the manual (version 2.3, English and German) for the PTC-II is now available for download from our WWW sites. The format is WinWord 6.0, the size is about 2.8 Mbyte, compressed and selfextracting. A printed version can be ordered for \$15 or 20DM plus shipping.

To obtain more information about recent changes and added features of the firmware version 2.4, download the 2.4-update. The information is included.

NEW VERSION 2.4H

Update version 2.4H for the PTC-II is now available for download from our WWW sites. It is not a "big" update but it fixes some bugs, fulfills some user wishes and brings more compatibility to the various hostmode programs. As usual its a selfextracting file containing a German and English manual addendum. Check it out and have fun :-)

**73, Martin,
SCS-PACTOR Team**

PS. There has been some confusion came up with the loading of the version 2.4H from our sites. It was not intended to be a joke for the 1st of April, but the self extracting file now is opening and loading OK :-)

More good news: Our German and English manuals are now also available in ACROBAT (pdf) format from our sites.

**73, Martin, DL1ZAM
SCS-PACTOR-Team**

HTTP://WWW.SCS-PTC.COM

Life of HF BBS

by,

Phil Sussman, N8PS
P.O. Box 31
Clayton, Ohio 45315-0031
e-mail: pactor@pactor.com

The advent of AMTOR and PACTOR created a number of automated HF mailboxes scattered throughout the world. Some of these mailboxes offer Store and Forward (S&F) capability into and out of the Packet Radio (PR) system. Others are merely small personal systems for the use of one operator.

These mailboxes (MBX) gave hams the opportunity to send mail directly without 'land-line' intervention. In recent times the speed and availability of the Internet has been employed to interconnect some systems. This has led to a controversy over what constitutes a ham radio systems.

USE LAND LINES OR NOT

One of the hardest questions to answer is whether the use of non-amateur links contributes to or detracts from the hobby. There are two schools of thought:

1. The use of a non-ham links only enhances performance and offers a convenient way to move messages for which no other links exist. Other links do exist for emergencies. These links just augment existing systems.

2. The use of non-ham links ends any reliance for ham links, undermining the very need for amateur radio. Other links remove traffic from Ham radio and results in an unreliable and untested systems for emergencies.

The truth of the matter lies somewhere between these two ideas. Both are true, yet both are lacking.

GROWTH OF TRAFFIC

The number of messages that travel over the Ham radio links has been steadily increasing. In addition, the length of messages has been growing due to growing content.

However, it is interesting to note that the number of PERSONAL messages has been steadily declining while the number of bulletins has been rapidly increasing.

(Continued on Page 10)

FREDDIE THE LID

Freddie returned from his annual trip to the Dayton HamVention and as usual he returned with a load of items from the flea market. He began to pile this material on his driveway.

Since this was an annual ritual, Joe Ham and some other club members came over to see what Freddie had purchased. The driveway was littered with rolls and rolls of solid #12 copper wire. There were hanks and spools everywhere.

"You have miles of wire," said Glen.

"Six miles of wire," corrected Freddie.

"What are you going to do with all that wire," asked Joe?

"I'm putting up a long wire antenna three miles long," he answered.

"Three miles - you don't have enough space. Where do you plan to run it?" questioned Glen?

"I'm gonna nail it up on the telephone poles," said Freddie confidently.

"I don't think the phone company would like that," said Glen.

"I'll put it up at night so they won't care," answered Freddie.

"So why six miles of wire," asked Joe?

"Oh, Joe," replied Freddie, "you know any antenna needs a good ground."

"A three mile ground wire," asked Joe?

"It's gonna have a real good ground," said Freddie.

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Round Rock, TX 78446-5926
Tel: (512) 255-5000

Tickets issued at door - cancelled check is your receipt

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Saturday night May 16, 1998

Quality Inn - 2401 Needmore Road - Dayton, OHIO
no-host bar at 6:00 PM - Dinner 7:00 PM

Dinner will be a buffet consisting of the following

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LIFE OF HF MBX

Continued from Page 8

The decline of personal messages tends to indicate that timing is important. Why wait days for a message that can travel over the Internet in seconds. So an argument can be made that Ham Radio packet network ought to serve primarily as a bulletin media rather than as a personal message media.

Since most personal messages are handled so efficiently by the Internet, there seems to be little, if any, need to send personal messages by Ham radio, except in emergencies.

Today most mailboxes on HF operate automatically or semiautomatically, forwarding traffic into or out of the PACKET radio (PR) network. The more robust protocols of CLOVER and PACTOR-II are most common.

The use of land line links over the Ham packet radio network has led to many problems. Two are very significant. The first is that message routing has become tainted with messages written for one limited area are being routinely circulated worldwide. The second is the huge number of messages originated by non-hams and/or non-ham BBSs making their way into the Ham PR network.

These problems can be addressed, but only if the Ham Radio community chooses to do so.

73 de Phil - N8PS

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RADIO**

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FCC PROPOSES LOWER FEE FOR VANITY LICENSES

In a move that caught most by surprise, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has proposed to Congress that fees charged to Amateur Radio Operators for vanity call signs be drastically reduced.

Currently Ham operators are charged \$50 for each 10 year term vanity application that is filed. That amounts to a charge of \$5 per year.

The proposed new fee would be \$1.29 per year or \$12.90 for a ten year term application.

Before the new fee will become effective the US Congress must first approve the fee schedule.

Nevertheless, it was one of the few fees that was reduced on the proposed new schedule. Other services, including Commercial radio operators, broadcast stations and other private users would be required to pay more to either renew their license or apply for a new one.

One group of amateur operators opposes ANY fee for renewing a Ham Radio vanity call. The premise is that it costs the FCC no more to renew a vanity call than it does to renew a non-vanity call. Instead they propose that a one time processing fee be made at the time of application for a Ham Vanity Callsign.

**PLEASE
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NEWS**

HELLO de 4X6UO

Ari Surkiss, 4X6UO
P.O. Box 5603
Herzlia 46100 ISRAEL
Email: 4x6uo@netvision.net.il

Hello PACTOR Friends,

I am sorry to report that I will not be able to attend the Dayton Hamvention this year.

I have some more articles and I will be writing about the IARU meeting the was held in Vienna for all of Region 1.

Soon this article and others I will have these ready to be printed. I am sure that you will want to read all about the many new things that are happening with digital.

I also have a home page at:

<http://www.shape.co.il/4x6uo>

All going to Dayton please to have a fine time.

73 de Ari - 4X6UO

DIGITAL HAM RADIO

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FOR SALE: ICOM 751 HF Rig. With power cable and manual \$500 plus shipping. Contact PACTOR NEWS, PO Box 31, Clayton, OHIO 45315.

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Our next reviews the 1998 Dayton HamVention. We plan a new 'starting in digital' series. Please subscribe, we need you. Thanks for all the help and encouragement from the digital community to continue this publication. Many of us who care, working together, we can accomplish quite a bit. A hearty welcome to all of our new subscribers. Please send pictures and articles, and we'll try to use them, but we can't return submissions. Tell your friends about PACTOR, too. Please **REMEMBER OUR ADVERTISERS.** Until next time - 73 - de Phil - N8PS. **May God Bless you and yours.**

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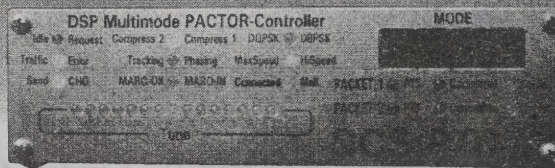
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